

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace the existing claims with the following set of claims:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing ammunition for military unit training events, said method comprising the steps of:

computing ammunition allocations and logistics requirement, in a computer, for military unit training events having an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said software program computes said allocation and logistics for ammunition requirements;

enabling a user to forecast weapon training events by executing said software program on said computer;

utilizing said computer and said software program running thereon to generate ~~said~~ a forecast of ammunition required for said weapon training events;

providing traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events; and

subsequently, extracting said ammunition requirements for said training events from said forecast to enable allocation and delivery of said ammunition requirements to military units for said training events.

2. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of:

receiving forecasts of ~~the~~ said weapon training events.

3. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2, further comprising the step of:

determining the ammunition requirements for ~~the~~ said weapon training events.

4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

allocating the ammunition for ~~the~~ said weapon training events.

5. (Previously presented) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

comparing via said software program the ammunition requirements with the forecast for available ammunition inventories.

6. (Original) The method of claim 3, further comprising the step of:

adjusting the ammunition allocations to reflect the ammunition requirements and the ammunition inventories.

7. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6, further comprising the step of:

requesting ammunition from supplier organizations for the said weapon training events.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7, further comprising the step of:

approving the ammunition allocations.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, further comprising the step of:

including ammunition supplies from the supplier organizations into the ammunition inventories.

10. (Previously presented) The method of claim 9, further comprising the step of:

distributing the approved ammunition allocations to user level units by picking ammunition products from a supplier organization and distributing said ammunition products to a customer organization.

11. (Original) The method of claim 10, further comprising the step of:

making an accounting for physical distribution of the ammunition and its associated packaging material.

12. (Original) The method of claim 11, further comprising the step of:

returning residue from the ammunition and the packaging material for recycling.

13. (Currently amended) A method of managing ammunition for military unit training events, for storage on at least one computer storage medium, said method comprising the steps of:

computing ammunition allocations and logistics requirement, in a computer, for military unit weapon training

events having an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said software program computes said allocation and logistics for ammunition;

determining the type of training requested by a training unit in the military unit training event;

utilizing said computer and said software program thereon to generate a forecast of ammunition requirements for said weapon training events; and

storing said forecast on said at least one computer medium; and

providing traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

14. (Currently amended) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 13, further comprising the step of:

receiving forecasts of ~~the~~ said weapon training events for an identified time frame from user level units.

15. (Currently amended) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 14, further comprising the step of:

storing ammunition requirements data in a database, wherein said software program determines the ammunition requirements for ~~the~~ said weapon training events by comparison with said data in said database.

16. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 15, further comprising the step of:

comparing the ammunition requirements with ammunition inventories on hand.

17. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 16, further comprising the step of:

adjusting ammunition allocations to reflect the ammunition requirements and the ammunition inventories.

18. (Currently amended) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 17, further comprising the step of:

allocating the ammunition for ~~the~~ said weapon training events occurring within the identified time frame.

19. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 18, further comprising the step of:

requesting the ammunition from supplier organizations for the training events occurring within the identified time frame, wherein a parent organization consolidates customer requests for ammunition allocation and forwards the customer requests for ammunition allocation for approval.

20. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 19, further comprising the step of approving the ammunition allocations.

21. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 20, further comprising the step of including ammunition supplies from supplier organizations into the ammunition inventories.

22. (Currently amended) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 21, further comprising the step of distributing the approved ammunition allocations to the user level units, wherein an accounting is made for physical distribution of the ammunition and packaging material, including return of residue after conclusion of ~~the~~ said weapon training events.

23. (Previously presented) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 22, further comprising the step of identifying all authorized substitutes for a given ammunition product by referring to ammunition inventories.

24. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 23, further comprising the step of identifying all weapon equipment that can use a given ammunition product.

25. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 24, further comprising the step of identifying all ammunition products usable by a given weapon.

26. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 25, further comprising the step of identifying all residue requirements for recovery and disposal for a given ammunition product.

27. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 26, further comprising the step of determining the number and types of vehicles required to transport the ammunition requirements.

28. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 27, further comprising the step of identifying hazard class and compatibility codes for the vehicles.

29. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 28, further comprising the step of matching the vehicles by hazard class and compatibility code with ammunition to be transported.

30. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 29, wherein forecasts of ammunition requirements are determined from the training plan documents of user level units.

31. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 30, wherein user level units have access to input forecasts and receive allocations.

32. (Original) The method of computerized management of ammunition for military unit training events of claim 31, said method further comprising the step of utilizing a plurality of tables of ammunition requirements for training events within a database, a plurality of table names, a plurality of fields within each of said plurality of tables, a plurality of forms for input of data, at least one computer-readable storage medium, at least one software program and a computer means for operating on said database by operation of said at least one software program.

33. (Currently amended) A system for ammunition management comprising:

a computer having an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said software program operates on a database of weapon training events and ammunition requirements thereof, and wherein said software program provides traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

34. (Currently amended) The system of claim 33, further comprising:

means for input of quantified requests for ammunition for said weapon training events from user level units.

35. (Previously presented) The system of claim 34, wherein said software program operates on said database in concert with said quantified requests.

36. (Original) The system of claim 35, further comprising:

comparison means for matching inventory of ammunition with said quantified requests.

37. (Currently amended) The system of claim 36, further comprising:

allocation means for adjusting ammunition stocks to priority rank of said weapon training events.

38. (Original) The system of claim 37, further comprising:

output means for providing approval requests and reports.

39. (Original) The system of claim 38, further comprising:

distribution means for distributing ammunition to user level units.

40. (Previously presented) The system of claim 39, wherein said software program utilizes structured query language instructions.

41. (Previously presented) The system of claim 40, wherein said software program utilizes forms with embedded computer software code therein.

42. (Currently amended) At least one computer software program running on a computer, said software program comprising instructions for implementing a method of ammunition management, said instructions including the functions of:

receiving forecasts of weapon training events from user level units; and

executing said software program; and

processing said forecasts of ~~the~~ said weapon training events into ammunition requirements via said execution of said software program; and

providing traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

43. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 42 further comprising the function of:

utilizing the computer to consolidate forecasts for a plurality of user level units.

44. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 43 further comprising the function of:

utilizing the computer to determine the total ammunition requirements for all user level units.

45. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 44 further comprising the function of:

utilizing the computer to compare the total ammunition requirements with ammunition stock on hand.

46. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 45 further comprising the function of:

allocating approved ammunition to user level units.

47. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 46, wherein said instructions further include the function of:

distributing allocated ammunition to user level units.

48. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 47, wherein said instructions further include the function of:

recovering unused ammunition stocks and other residue from user level units.

49. (Previously presented) The instructions of claim 48, wherein said instructions further include the function of:

requesting approval for use of ammunition to meet requests.

50. (Currently amended) A computer readable tangible medium storing instructions for implementing a method of ammunition management, wherein the contents of said medium cause a computer system to operate on a database and external information, by performing the steps of:

receiving forecasts of weapon training events;

providing traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events;

calculating ammunition requirements of the training events;

comparing ammunition requirements to existing ammunition stocks;

allocating ammunition to user level units based on ammunition stocks, forecast and priority of training events;

distributing allocated ammunition to user level units;
and

recovering spent ammunition and packaging from user level units.

51. (Currently amended) A computer device comprising:

a computer with an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said software program computes the allocation and logistics of ammunition based upon weapon training events, and wherein said software program provides traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

52. (Previously presented) The computer device of claim 51, further comprising:

means for receiving training event forecasts.

53. (Original) The computer device of claim 52, further comprising:

means for determining ammunition requirements to meet the training event forecasts.

54. (Original) The computer device of claim 53, further comprising:

means for comparing the ammunition requirements to ammunition stocks on hand.

55. (Original) The computer device of claim 54, further comprising:

means for obtaining authorization to utilize stocks of ammunition to meet the ammunition requirements.

56. (Original) The computer device of claim 55, further comprising:

means for requesting additional stocks of ammunition to meet the ammunition requirements, if needed.

57. (Original) The computer device of claim 56, further comprising:

means for allocating the ammunition requirements to user level units.

58. (Original) The computer device of claim 57, further comprising:

means for distributing the ammunition requirements to user level units.

59. (Currently amended) The computer device of claim 58, further comprising:

means for recovering spent ammunition and packaging thereof after end of ~~the~~ said weapon training events.

60. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing ammunition requirements and supply for weapon training events, said apparatus comprising:

a computer with an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said software program accesses a database of ammunition requirements related to weapon training events, said database accessible via a network, and wherein said software program provides traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events;.

61. (Original) The apparatus of claim 60, further comprising:

training forecasts supplied by user level units for defining the ammunition requirements therefor.

62. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising:

a software program for ammunition management running on a computer, said software program comprising program operations selected from the group consisting of means for obtaining ammunition requirements of said weapon training events from said database, means for calculating total ammunition requirements by operation on said database, means for comparing the total ammunition requirements for the training forecasts with ammunition inventories on hand, means for transforming said forecasts into allocations of ammunition inventories, and combinations thereof.

63. (Original) The apparatus of claim 62, further comprising:

means for distributing ammunition to the user level units.

64. (Currently amended) A method for management of ammunition for military units, for storage on at least one computer storage medium, comprising the steps of:

computing ammunition allocations and logistics requirement, in a computer, for military unit weapon training events having an ammunition management software program running thereon;

receiving forecasts via said software program of ammunition requirements for a period of time from user level units;

comparing ammunition requirements via said software program with ammunition inventories on hand;

adjusting ammunition allocations via said software program to reflect ammunition requirements and ammunition inventories;

allocating ammunition via said software program to the user level units within the period of time;

requesting ammunition, via said software program, from supplier organizations for ammunition requirements for the period of time, wherein a parent organization consolidates customer requests and forwards the customer requests for approval;

including ammunition supplies from supplier organizations into inventory; and

distributing approved ammunition allocations to user level units, wherein an accounting is made for physical distribution of ammunition; and

providing traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

65. (Currently amended) A system for ammunition management comprising:

a computer with an ammunition management software program running thereon, wherein said computer receives input of quantified requests for ammunition from user level units related to weapon training events, and wherein said software program provides traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

66. (Original) The system for ammunition management of claim 65 further comprising:

means for comparing inventory of ammunition with said quantified requests.

67. (Original) The system for ammunition management of claim 66 further comprising:

means for allocating and adjusting ammunition stocks to user level units.

68. (Original) The system for ammunition management of claim 67 further comprising:

means for providing approval requests and reports.

69. (Original) The system for ammunition management of claim 68 further comprising:

means for distributing ammunition to user level units.

70. (Currently amended) An apparatus for managing ammunition requirements and supply, comprising:

a computer;

a network, in communication with an external communications link;

ammunition requirements forecasts supplied by user level units;

a software program for ammunition management, running on said computer, said software program having traceability bidirectionally from and to weapon training events, ~~running on said computer,~~ wherein said software program calculates total ammunition requirements for all user level units, compares the total ammunition requirements with ammunition inventories on hand, and transforms the ammunition requirements and ammunition inventories into allocations of ammunition to the user level units, wherein said ammunition is distributed to the user level units.

71. (Original) The apparatus for managing ammunition requirements and supply of claim 70, further comprising scanning means for inventory control.

72. (Original) The apparatus for managing ammunition requirements and supply of claim 71, further comprising ammunition contained in packages having a bar code label thereon.

73. (Original) The apparatus for managing ammunition requirements and supply of claim 72, further comprising storage magazines having bar code labels thereon.

74. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising at least one computer and at least one computer-readable tangible medium having thereon a computer program comprising stored instructions for implementing a method of ammunition management for weapon training events, wherein said at least one computer utilizes said instructions to consolidate forecasts for a plurality of user level units, and wherein said computer program provides traceability bidirectionally from and to said weapon training events.

75. (Previously presented) The instructions stored on the apparatus of claim 74, wherein said at least one computer determines the total ammunition requirements for all user level units.

76. (Previously presented) The instructions stored on the apparatus of claim 75, wherein said at least one computer compares the total ammunition requirements with ammunition stock on hand.

77. (Previously presented) The instructions stored on the apparatus of claim 76, wherein said at least one computer requests approval for use of ammunition to meet said ammunition requirements.

78. (Previously presented) The instructions stored on the apparatus of claim 77, wherein said at least one computer allocates approved ammunition to user level units.

79. (Previously presented) The instructions stored on the apparatus of claim 78, wherein said at least one computer authorizes distribution of said allocated approved ammunition to user level units.